

CHAPTER XII

THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHISM

" Multae diaputatione factae aut circa istam materiam, multi Dbelli editi pro utriusque partis defensione Pentiaaimoa viroa In aacra p agin a et lure canonico habuit toto tempore illo quo duravit id achlsma utraque para seu obedientia, ac etiam religioaiaaimoa viroa et (quod maiua eat) etiam miraculia fnlgentea ; nee unquam ale potuit quaeatio illa decidl, qnin semper remaneret apud plurimoa dubla."—St. Antonmua, *Chronicorum*, III. tit. 22.

WE must now turn back to what had been passing at Rome and at Tivoli, while Catherine was thus engaged upon the work of her Divine Master at Florence.

Gregory had returned from Anagni in November, broken down in health and embittered in spirit. He found even the Romans turning against him. By lending ear to the suggestions of the nobles, especially the ambitious and intriguing Count of Fondi, Onorato Gaetani, he had alienated the friendship of the Bandaresi, the formidable representatives of the Roman People, who had the whole force of the Republic behind them. It was feared that they would endeavour to prevent the Pope from again leaving the city. The Cardinal of Marmoutier declares that Gregory told him that one of the Roman cardinals was plotting his death, in order himself to obtain the tiara.¹ One of the Pope's household told Alfonso da Vadaterra, who was then in Rome promoting the canonization of Birgitta, that Gregory intended to yield to the solicitations of the French cardinals and of his own family, and to return to Avignon. " I am absolutely certain," answered the hermit-bishop, " that he will never be able to do this ; for I know that it is the will of God that our lord the Pope and his Curia should remain in Rome."² A few days after this conversation, Gregory's last

¹ Deposition of the Cardinal of Marmoutier, Gayet, doc. 39. Jacopo Orsini, the person meant, was already dead when the Cardinal made this statement.

³ Raynaldus, vii. pp. 375, 376. Cf. Thomas de Acerno, *Rer. It. Script.*, iii. 2. coll. 715, 716.